




STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Donald E. Williamson, MD
State Health Officer

August 2, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Emergency Medical Services Personnel (EMSP)
FROM: Dennis Blair, Director 
RE: Intravenous Fluids and other ALS procedures

Our office has become aware of Intravenous Fluids and other ALS procedures are being administered at athletic events by EMSP. The Office of EMS and Trauma would like to remind all EMSP that all ALS procedures can be performed only when done by protocol, an on-line medical direction physician gives a verbal order, or under the physician's direct supervision. The EMSP must be on duty for a licensed service and a physician must evaluate the patient, either at the athletic facility or hospital. Any procedures by an EMSP must be documented on the patient care report and submitted to the Office of EMS and Trauma. In no instance will EMS providers give IV fluids and allow the athlete to return to competition. Only a doctor can do this and then only after personally evaluating the patient. Below is the Position statement of the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

AHSAA Position Statement

On Intravenous Fluid Use In High School Athletes

Purpose

To discuss the use of intravenous hydration/rehydration in athletes in the State of Alabama during practice or any competition.

Introduction

It has become increasingly common for athletes in the State of Alabama to receive intravenous fluids before, during, or after athletic participation in order to speed the rehydration process or to treat a condition that has caused dehydration. Often these athletes are allowed to return to competition minutes later, or on that same day which may place these athletes at an increased risk from further complications associated with the condition being treated.

Recommendations

It is the recommendation of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) that the use of intravenous fluid hydration/rehydration be used in athletes only in the case of medical necessity in order to prevent or treat cardiovascular collapse or in the treatment of severe heat induced illness, severe hypotension and shock, or other life-threatening condition that would benefit from intravascular fluid treatment.

The intravenous fluids can only be administered by, or under the direct supervision of, a Medical Doctor with a license to practice Medicine in the State of Alabama or by Emergency Medical personnel trained in the use and administration of intravenous fluids who have received a direct verbal or written order from a Medical Doctor.

If an athlete should require intravenous fluid therapy, he/she would not be allowed to participate in any athletic competition for the remainder of that day and will be required to have a written note from a Medical Doctor in order to return to competition in the 24 hours following the administration of intravenous fluids for any reason.